

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PRESS TREATMENT OF BEWT DIRECTOR DOWNEY'S REMARKS

AT NEW YORK EAST-WEST TRADE CONFERENCE

1. MAY 11 TRUD CARRIES ON FRONT PAGE SHORT TASS ARTICLE CONCERNING MAY 8-9 EAST-WEST TRADE CONFERENCE HELD IN NEW YORK. NOTING THAT CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS WERE COMMERCE DEPT., US-USSR TRADE AND ECONOMIC COUNCIL, AND NEW YORK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, ARTICLE STATES THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS "EMPHATICALLY SPOKE OUT" FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH USSR AND OTHER "SOCIALIST" COUNTRIES. BEWT DIRECTOR ARTHUR DOWNEY SINGLED OUT FOR PARTICULAR MENTION IN ARTICLE, WHICH QUOTES HIM AS EMPHASIZING THAT DEVELOPMENT OF SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS SHOULD BE BASED ON STRICT OBSERVATION OF PRINCIPLE OF MUTUAL ADVANTAGE. DOWNEY FURTHER QUOTED AS STATING THAT ADMINISTRATION HOPES CONGRESS WILL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE RE-EXAMINE ITS RESTRICTIVE DECISIONS REGARDING TRADE WITH USSR.

2. LIMITED DISTRIBUTION TASS VESTNIK OF ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL INFORMATION OF MAY 12 CARRIES MUCH LONGER REPORTAGE OF CONFERENCE AND, IN PARTICULAR, DOWNEY'S SPEECH. VESTNIK QUOTES
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DOWNEY AS STRESSING IMPORTANCE OF CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF

TRADE LEGISLATION THIS YEAR IN LIGHT OF FACT THAT USSR WILL SHORTLY COMPLETE WORK ON ITS NEW FIVE-YEAR PLAN. IN ABSENCE RESOLUTION CURRENT PROBLEMS IN SOVIET-AMERICAN TRADE RELATIONS, ACCORDING TO TASS QUOTE OF DOWNEY, AMERICAN BUSINESS MAY FIND ITSELF "OVERBOARD." VESTNIK THEN GOES ON TO QUOTE AT LENGTH FROM SPEECH BY HAROLD SCOTT, WHICH REPEATS FAMILIAR HYPOTHESIS THAT US WILL BE ONLY LOSER SHOULD TRADE LEGISLATION NOT BE AMENDED. ARTICLE WINDS UP BY NOTING PRO-TRADE SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED BY REPS OF CHASE MANHATTAN, MANUFACTURERS HANOVER TRUST, PULLMAN, AND "OTHER LEADING AMERICAN BANKS AND CORPORATIONS."

3. COMMENT: INTERESTINGLY, MASS MEDIA COVERAGE OF CONFERENCE WAS LIMITED TO TRADE UNION ORGAN TRUD. DETAILED ACCOUNT CONTAINED ONLY IN TASS VESTNIK, WHOSE CIRCULATION IS LARGELY RESTRICTED TO SOVIET INDUSTRIAL MINISTRIES, PLANNING ORGANS, AND THE FOREIGN TRADE BUREAUCRACY (PLUS FOREIGN DIPLOMATIC AND COMMERCIAL MISSIONS IN MOSCOW). THEREFORE, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THIS COVERAGE IS INTENDED PRIMARILY TO INFORM INTERESTED SOVIET OFFICIALS OF CONTINUING ADMINISTRATION COMMITMENT TO NORMALIZATION OF BILATERAL TRADE RELATIONS. IF SO, LIMITED COVERAGE MAY INDICATE SOVIETS ARE BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND THAT BROADSIDE, MASSIVE, ALMOST DAILY PRESS DRUMBEAT OF PROPAGANDA STATEMENTS ON US-USSR TRADE DOES NOT NECESSARILY CONSTITUTE BEST WAY TO ACHIEVE DESIRED RESULT. STOESSEL

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